



# Middle East News

## Assad 'refusing' to clarify 'full peace' to Clinton

The Jerusalem Post

SYRIAN President Hafez Al Assad rejected a request from President Bill Clinton to clarify the meaning of the "full peace" Damascus says it is ready to make with Israel.

Mr. Clinton made the request in a letter two weeks ago, it was revealed Tuesday night.

American sources said Mr. Clinton requested the clarifications, so he could approach Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with them, and then ask him for clarifications of his intentions regarding "withdrawals on the Golan Heights."

The letter marks the first time Mr. Clinton has become personally involved in the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

The report of the exchange of letters threw somewhat of a damper on the outlook for the next round of peace negotiations, set to convene in Washington on Tuesday. All sides were also awaiting the results of a meeting Thursday night between an advance delegation of Palestinian

representatives, which arrived in Washington Tuesday, and U.S. administration officials. That meeting was still going on at press time.

But Israeli, Arab, and American political sources continued to predict yesterday that significant progress is possible next week.

Ambassador to the U.S. Itamar Rabinovich, who is also chief negotiator with the Palestinians, said yesterday that this was his impression, based both on the general atmosphere and on "other factors" he declined to specify.

The Americans, it is said, thinking there is a chance of reaching agreement on a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles before the end of this round of talks. Arab sources in Washington share this opinion.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, a last-minute PLO appointment to head the delegation to the preliminary talks, said before leaving for Washington yesterday that he was not committing himself now to going to the talks next week. "I am going tomorrow. That's

all I can say," he told The Jerusalem Post from his home in Gaza.

But delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, and PLO chief Yasser Arafat have both said there is no danger of the Palestinians boycotting next week's talks.

Dr. Ashrawi, who left Amman directly for Washington yesterday, reiterated.

"No," she said when asked whether the Palestinians were considering staying away. "These discussions (in Washington) are preparatory for the tenth round and to put the negotiations in the right context."

Dr. Abdul Shafi told the Jerusalem Post last week he believes the main sticking point is Israel's refusal to define the territories as occupied, and that most of the delegation supports his view.

Ghassan Khatib, a former communist who skipped the last round of talks, but is a member of delegation to the preliminary talks, shares Dr. Abdul Shafi's view.

Rabin would not answer a question on whether he might negotiate directly with the PLO.



Hafez Al Assad

said he was not interested in annexing the territories. Mr. Rabin said he envisaged some kind of Palestinian-Jordanian or Israel-Palestinian-Jordanian arrangement.

Asked by journalist Daoud Kattab if the talks would collapse if delegates declared themselves members of the Palestine National Council, Mr. Rabin said, "We would have to take action" but he stopped short of saying that would end the talks.

Rabin would not answer a question on whether he might negotiate directly with the PLO.

## Iran opposition says it hit Abadan refinery

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian opposition movement the Mujahideen-e-Khalq said its guerrillas blew up a large part of the Abadan refinery in southern Iran Friday in a major attack timed to coincide with Iranian presidential elections.

The Iranian authorities have responded by turning off the taps and stopping the flow of oil throughout the Abadan area to prevent a fire spreading to the centre of the refinery, one of the largest in Iran, Mujahideen spokesman Ali Safavi said.

The guerrillas, part of well-equipped army with bases in neighbouring Iraq, attacked the western section of the refinery at 6 a.m. local (0130 GMT), overrunning the headquarters of a Revolutionary Guards division and the headquarters of State security forces there, he said.

"With 16 powerful explosions, they blew up large portions of the western section of the refinery. Scores of revolutionary guards, including some of their commanders, were killed," said Mr. Safavi, who was speaking by telephone from Paris.

The Mujahideen have been reporting a series of attacks on government targets in western Iran since early this year. The Iranian authorities have denied some and confirmed others.

They denied a Mujahideen report that its guerrillas destroyed 11 pipelines in Khozestan province and inflicted damage worth \$100 million in an attack on June 7. Abadan, at the mouth of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, is in Khozestan.

But Iran's intelligence chief, Ali Fallahian, has confirmed the group attacked from Iraq in January, April and May.

Mr. Safavi said the Mujahideen also made five attacks on military targets inside Iran on Friday morning, killing or wounding at least 140 men and

destroying scores of vehicles.

One unit hit a battalion of the Revolutionary Guards with rockets and other weapons between the western cities of Khorramshahr and Ahvaz at 4:30 a.m. (midnight GMT), he said. The Revolutionary Guards lost 30 men killed or wounded.

The second attack was on another Revolutionary Guards unit southwest of Ahvaz at 1 a.m. (2030 GMT). At least 20 guards were killed or wounded, he said.

The third attack was on an army brigade in the Sumar region of Kermanshah province to the north of the other attacks. Thirty-five soldiers were killed or wounded, he said.

The fourth and fifth, in which 55 Revolutionary Guards were killed or wounded, were near the city of Gilan Garh, also in Kermanshah province and close to the Iraqi border.

Mr. Safavi said the attacks were specifically timed for the presidential elections, in which President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is expected to win a second four-year term. The Mujahideen say the elections are a sham and Iranians should refrain from voting.

The Mujahideen say they have escalated their attacks in recent months to exploit growing internal unrest caused by the deteriorating economy and a power struggle that intensified ahead of Friday's presidential elections.

They claim all the attacks are launched by units based inside Iran.

However, the operations have all been so close to the border, that they could have well come from Iraq.

Iraq alleges that Iran is aiding Shi'ite Muslim rebels in the south and mounting attacks by the Revolutionary Guards against the Kurdish irregulars.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Islamists get 2 new cabinet posts in Yemen

SANA (R) — Yemen's presidential council gave two new cabinet posts in the coalition government to the Islamist party. Thursday, Abdul Wahab Ali Al Ouni was appointed deputy prime minister, Abdul Salam Khaled Kouman became justice and parliamentary affairs minister. With the new appointments, the Islamist party's list — which won 24.6 per cent of the seats in April's parliamentary elections — now holds six posts in the 31-member cabinet. President Abd Allah Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) has 15 cabinet posts. The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) has eight ministers in addition to Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas. Mujahid Abu Abu Shawreb of the pro-Iraqi Baath Party was earlier appointed deputy prime minister.

### Tunisian student leader jailed

TUNIS (R) — The leader of Tunisia's students union has been sentenced to one year's jail on charges of using the drug cannabis, his lawyers said Thursday. But Nawfal Ziadi, who was convicted Wednesday, rejected the charges telling the court he was on trial for his activities as head of the union, the lawyers added. Mr. Ziadi, 30, is secretary-general of the Union Générale des Etudiants de Tunisie which called a strike in Tunisia's universities in February as part of a campaign to secure police withdrawal from campuses. He was arrested in May on the evidence of a drug dealer. The dealer, the only prosecution witness, later told the court he did not recognise Mr. Ziadi as the person to whom he sold cannabis for 10 dinars (\$10) two years ago. But the government denied any link between the trial and Mr. Ziadi's union activities. Habib Ziadi, a lawyer, said he was concerned about his brother's health. Mr. Nawfal had an open-heart operation years ago, and he also has backache and suffers from rheumatism, he said.

### Chad parliament overturns Libya accord

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad's transitional parliament Thursday overturned a cooperation treaty with Libya, Chadian national radio reported. The parliament, the High Council of the Transition, said last November's agreement was improper because of a longstanding dispute over the Aouzou border region. "The High Council of the Transition considers it strange to sign a cooperation accord with Libya which has since 1973 occupied the Aouzou Strip, a border conflict placed in the hands of the international court of justice," the radio said. Political sources said the accord contained provisions for coordination of regional and international policies and free movement of labour and capital between the two neighbours. Libyan and Chadian forces have fought each other for much of the past 25 years but Western diplomats say Chad's President Idriss Deby, who seized power in a 1990 coup, did so with Libyan backing. Mr. Deby visited Tripoli to consolidate relations in 1991 but refused to abandon his country's claim to Aouzou.

### Quake shakes Algerian town, no damage

ALGIERS (R) — An earthquake registering 3.8 on the Richter scale shook the Algerian town of Ain Bessam on Thursday but caused no damage, the official news agency APS said. It quoted the geophysical research centre as saying the quake was followed 30 minutes later by an aftershock in the same district, 80 kilometres southeast of Algiers. Earthquakes over four on the Richter scale often cause heavy damage in populated areas.

### Are you relative of Rushdie? asks Rafsanjani

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, heading for a second term in office in elections on Friday, brushed off questions on the future of the condemned British author Salman Rushdie. "Are you a relative of Salman Rushdie?" he asked, laughing, when a British reporter insisted on a reply to whether the new government planned to change policy on Mr. Rushdie. His aides joined in the laughter. Mr. Rafsanjani said "you know" the position, namely that the death sentence imposed on Mr. Rushdie by Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini could not be changed. Declining to go into details, the white-turbaned cleric noted that "these are elections."

Mr. Rafsanjani was casting his ballot in the modest Jamaran residence of Ayatollah Khomeini in northern Tehran, below the balcony where the founder of the Islamic republic would address his supporters.

### U.S. court awards damages to Iraq

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — A U.S. federal court jury awarded a former Iraqi government television and radio announcer \$159,000 in damages after finding that she was libelled by a Houston-based Arab language newspaper. The verdict against the "Arab Times" and its editor-in-chief Osama Fawzi Yousef, was returned late Wednesday after a two-day trial in the eastern district of Virginia. The jury awarded \$9,000 in compensatory damages and \$150,000 in punitive damages to Shammam Noel Rassam, now a radio and TV announcer for the Satellite Arab Network of America, based here. Mrs. Rassam, who was visiting relatives in New York when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and decided to stay in the United States, sued the newspaper last October over statements in one of its editions last August. The newspaper published an anonymous letter-to-the-editor accusing her of fraud in connection with a charity gala that she emceed in June 1992 to benefit Iraqi children victimised by the Gulf war. After the suit was filed, the newspaper published replies in December and January accusing her of being an Iraqi intelligence agent and alleging that the Iraqi government was financing her court case.

### Leftists attack offices of Turkish parties

ISTANBUL (R) — Left-wing militants attacked district offices of Turkey's ruling coalition partners in Istanbul Wednesday and left behind bombs, officials said. Police safely defused the bombs. Officials said armed militants of the outlawed Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) group burst into the district offices of the True Path Party (DYP) and the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) and sprayed slogans on the walls. One police guard was hurt, they added. Dev-Sol has claimed responsibility for dozens of political murders, bombings and armed robberies in major Turkish cities in the past three years.

## Israel may not need \$10b in American guarantees

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Two-and-a-half years after Israel urgently asked the United States for guarantees for \$10 billion in loans to help absorb immigrants from the former Soviet Union, economists and former government officials are saying the country may not need the money, after all.

The request touched off a bitter political struggle between former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Bush administration over Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, and helped cause Mr. Shamir's defeat in last June's elections. Israel finally won the guarantees last year, and recently raised the first \$1 billion on Wall Street.

The money is now on deposit at the Bank of Israel — but the government is not rushing to spend it. For now, too, Israel has decided to wait at least until fall to borrow the next \$1 billion — and outside experts, including the head of the Bank of Israel during

## Polisario seeks U.S. support

WASHINGTON (AP) — The president of the Sahrawi republic, which claims independence from Morocco, appealed for American help Thursday in a cause once supported mainly by the Soviet Union, Cuba and Algeria.

Mohammed Abdul Aziz said he has been meeting with U.S. officials, primarily members of Congress, to gain support for a U.N.-sponsored independence referendum for the thinly populated Western Sahara.

The United States has long-time ties with Morocco and does not recognise the Sahrawi republic, but it supports U.N. efforts to hold a referendum on Western Sahara's independence. Morocco controls much of the arid but mineral-rich region that lies along Africa's northwest coast.

Mr. Abdul Aziz, speaking through a translator to reporters, accused Morocco of trying to set up a false referendum and of trying to undermine a September 1991 ceasefire being monitored by unarmed U.N. officers from 27 countries.

"We are at a very crucial moment in the U.N. peacekeeping process in the Western Sahara," Mr. Abdul Aziz said. "We are asking the United States to use its political influence to ensure a free, transparent election. We should not allow Morocco to abort this peace process."

Mr. Abdul Aziz said all he seeks is stronger U.S. support for the U.N. peace plan, including the long-postponed referendum.

Both Morocco and the former Marxist Polisario Front, which Mr. Abdul Aziz heads, claim the desert area which was ruled by Spain for 100 years, until 1976. They have been fighting for control of the area for 17 years.

In an interview with Anatolia before his parliament speech Mr. Denktash said he would reject the proposals and quit as negotiator if Mr. Atakol did not bring back satisfactory answers.

"If my leaving negotiations will not suffice to stop the pressure on us, I can even resign as president," he said.

The former coloniser of the Western Sahara, Spain, on the other hand, has backed the idea of a referendum. Mr. Abdul Aziz said the Polisario was grateful to Spain for its position and wants to use a 1974 Spanish census as the basis for voting roles.

"The French sometimes take a more extreme position than Morocco against us," he said.

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"The government is deter-

## Denktash will not attend Cyprus talks in New York

ANKARA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Thursday he would not return to New York for talks next week on reunifying Cyprus, Turkey's Anatolian news agency reported.

Mr. Denktash said the confidence-building measure, which also involves the reopening of Nicosia airport under U.N. control, was "unbalanced" against Turkish-Cypriots.

He wants a Greek-Cypriot economic embargo lifted from his enclave's ports as well and has said this was refused in New York.

"We come under constant pressure (in New York) and (are told) if you don't do this or that Turkey will pay for it," he told the daily Milliyet.

"We try to keep the talks going by accepting to be treated like a schoolchild only so Turkey won't suffer. Otherwise it is possible to walk out."

He was referring to a U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and five permanent members of the Security Council involved in the talks.

He said that although he wanted a federation in Cyprus he would not agree to the return of some 60,000 displaced Greek-Cypriots to the north.

Mr. Denktash has met President Suleyman Demirel and acting Prime Minister Erdal Inonu but they face attack by opposition leaders.

Denktash... is being stabbed in the back by Turkish leaders," ex-Prime Minister and Democratic Left Party leader Bulent Ecevit said.

"The leaders are minding not national interests but Turkey's image in the eyes of the West. This is called an inferiority complex," main opposition Motherland Party leader Mesut Yilmaz said Tuesday.

"The government is deter-

## Washington said to have proof of Iraqi role in plot

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has found evidence implicating the Iraqi government in a plot to assassinate former President George Bush, but has decided to withhold any public statement or U.S. response during the trial of the alleged assassins in Kuwait. U.S. officials said June 9.

"Generally, we think that there is evidence... that the Iraqis were involved in the effort against Bush" when the ex-president visited Kuwait in mid-April, a senior intelligence analyst told a group of reporters.

Other U.S. officials said the conclusion was based partly on a statement by one of the alleged plotters to FBI and Secret Service investigators that Iraq was behind the attempt and that Bush was the target — a claim the man, Wali Abdul Hadi Ghazali, repeated in a Kuwaiti courtroom last week.

The (Federal Bureau of Investigation) senior analyst, who spoke on condition that he not be named, also said that U.S. experts have found substantial corroborating evidence. He said the bombs, explosive materials and operating procedures meant to be

used in the plot against Mr. Bush resembled those used by Iraqi terrorists around the time of the Gulf war.

Another official familiar with the government's investigation said the "forensic" evidence included analysis linking the design and materials of a car bomb confiscated from the alleged plotters to other bombs made by Iraq.

The remarks represented the most definitive statement that an administration official has made so far about Iraq's involvement in the attempted assassination, which was allegedly supposed to occur during Mr. Bush's April 14-16 visit to Kuwait for ceremonies commemorating the Gulf war.

Some doubts about Iraq's involvement persist within the administration, stemming partly from the plotter's apparent ineptitude. For example, Raad Assadi, the alleged ringleader, testified in Kuwaiti court last week that he never intended to carry out any attack and had ditched some of the explosives in the desert after crossing from Iraq into Kuwait — The Washington Post.

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"The government is deter-

## USEFUL TELE

## Scenes from the Royal wedding



### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Yeltsin

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable of good wishes to Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, on his country's national day. He wished the president continued good health and happiness and further progress for the Russian people.

#### Reorganisation planned for hospitals

SALT (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said here Thursday that the ministry was in the process of reorganising Jordanian hospitals and health centres. Addressing a meeting during an inspection visit to the Al Hussein Hospital in Salt, the minister said that the measures aim at reducing formalities and improving services.

#### 73,000 students to take tawjih exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 73,000 male and female secondary school students will start their second and final tawjih examination for the 1992-93 scholastic year on Sunday. The students will sit for exams in the literary, scientific, industrial, commercial, agricultural, nursing and hotel management streams. The same students had taken the first session of the exam last January.

#### University to hold graduation ceremonies

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan will hold graduation ceremonies this month for students from the various faculties who completed their courses this year. The university's Students Affairs Dean Mohammad Khreisar said the ceremonies will be held at the Sports Stadium June 19 and 23.

#### Satellite photo workshop opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on ways to benefit from satellite photos in drawing maps and in other relevant fields will open Saturday at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in Amman. The three-day workshop will be attended by representatives of universities and various concerned government departments.

#### Environment officials head for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of officials representing the Department of Environment and several industrial businesses in Jordan left for Cairo Friday for a week-long visit. The team will study Egypt's experiment in the use of materials which do not affect the ozone layer. They will be touring a number of industrial centres.

#### Meetings to open on regional power linkage

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour Saturday opens meetings of ministers of electricity and energy in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Jordan, to discuss an electric project linking the five countries. Attending the meetings will be representatives of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The two-phase project will cost about \$385 million. The first phase of the project, which will be completed by 1997 involves the installation of 474 kilometres of high voltage electric lines between Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey; in the second phase 658 kilometres will be installed. The second phase will be implemented from 1998 to 2002. Work on the first segment of the project linking Jordan with Egypt has already started with funding by AFESD and the IDB.

#### Conference to focus on Jordanian economy

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on the performance of the Jordanian economy will open Sunday at the University of Jordan. The conference, entitled "The Jordanian Economy: Problems and Future Prospects" is organised by the University's Centre for Strategic Studies. Participants will treat such topics as economic development in Jordan between the 1950s and 1990s, Jordan's foreign debts, the economic restructuring programme, unemployment, investments and legislations to encourage investments, Jordan and the Gulf states, and European-Jordanian economic relations.

#### Fund grant JD6.4m in business loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) Mohammad Smadi Friday said the fund had already granted JD6.406,000 in 1,226 individual loans to finance projects in the industrial, agricultural, handicraft and tourist areas. He added that the fund also spent JD1.5 million to finance 35 middle and small-size projects run by voluntary societies and social development centres.

#### Holland donates \$1.1m to UNRWA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Netherlands has made an additional contribution of \$1.1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), to support the agency's emergency programmes in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, according to a press release issued by UNRWA Friday.

## Activists debate forming new women's 'authority'

By Sawsan Ghosheh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arguments over the practicality of developing another women's organisation dominated a meeting Friday held by the preparatory committee for the Women's Popular Conference.

At the meeting, planned to finalise papers that will be discussed at the conference on July 2, chairperson Huda Al Fakhouri said women activists saw the need to call for a wide-based conference to develop a "women's authority" and to bring the women's movement out of its current "crisis."

According to Dr. Fakhouri and other women activists at the meeting, the two present women unions in Jordan — the Women's Union in Jordan (WUJ) and the General Union for Jordanian Women (GUJW) — are the reasons for the present crisis.

The 100 participants concurred that the WUJ and the GUJW in their current forms are unsuitable for advancing women's rights. Failure to

become mass-based women's movements, politics often taking precedence over women's issues and programmes; struggles between different groups of women, each representing their own agenda over who will dominate the union; and external interference from the government were given as reasons for seeking a replacement for the present unions.

Dr. Fakhouri as well as others present at Friday's meeting called for establishing a new women's organisation that will offer a new vision; they look to the July conference to follow through on this suggestion.

They also refuse to work through the existing unions, explaining that as the source of the crisis working through the WUJ and GUJW will only worsen the situation, not improve it.

Yet, Toujan Faisal, a feminist and member of the preparatory committee, asserted that the failure of an institution to function is not the fault of the institution, but the fault of its members.

Most of the members of the preparatory committee are or were mem-

bers of either the WUJ or GUJW. Other members of the preparatory committee, including Khadija Abu Ali, believed that the meeting should focus on developing a new vision and working strategy for women before deciding whether a new organisation is needed or not.

In order to form this new vision, Ms. Abu Ali stressed, in depth studies should be conducted regarding the existing working methodology of different women's organisations, associations and unions, as well as studies on the situation of Jordanian women, especially those living outside the capital, who historically have been neglected.

Majida Al Masri, another preparatory committee member describes the committee as a pressure group. She suggested that the committee, which includes women from different sectors, political parties, women's organisations and unions, should establish principles on which there is a consensus and then decide if an organisation needs to be established.

Ms. Masri said if an existing orga-

nisation is willing to reform its charter and bylaws and adapt to the principles outlined by the preparatory committee, there is no reason to establish another women's organisation or, as she described it, a third women's union.

Haifa Al Bashir, a member of the committee and a renowned women's activist, believed that forming a new women's organisation is not in itself sufficient, it needs to be accompanied with a special law. Otherwise, she said, women's activists could still work through the WUJ and achieve many of their objectives.

The women's movement has not yet used the WUJ to its fullest potential, Ms. Khader insisted. Thus, she said, women's activists could still work through the WUJ and achieve many of their objectives.

The meeting, held at the Jordan Writers League, concluded its work by promising to: take all suggestions into consideration; carry out further studies requested, especially regarding the principles and the legal terms of reference; and provide all the alternative structures possible, including new and old institutions, for the organisation that will adopt these principles and terms. The decision regarding the operational framework will be taken at the conference, which will be open to all women who wish to participate.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Kattan and Dodi Tabbaa at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by more than 40 plastic artists from Iraq at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Marianne Naerorob at the British Council.

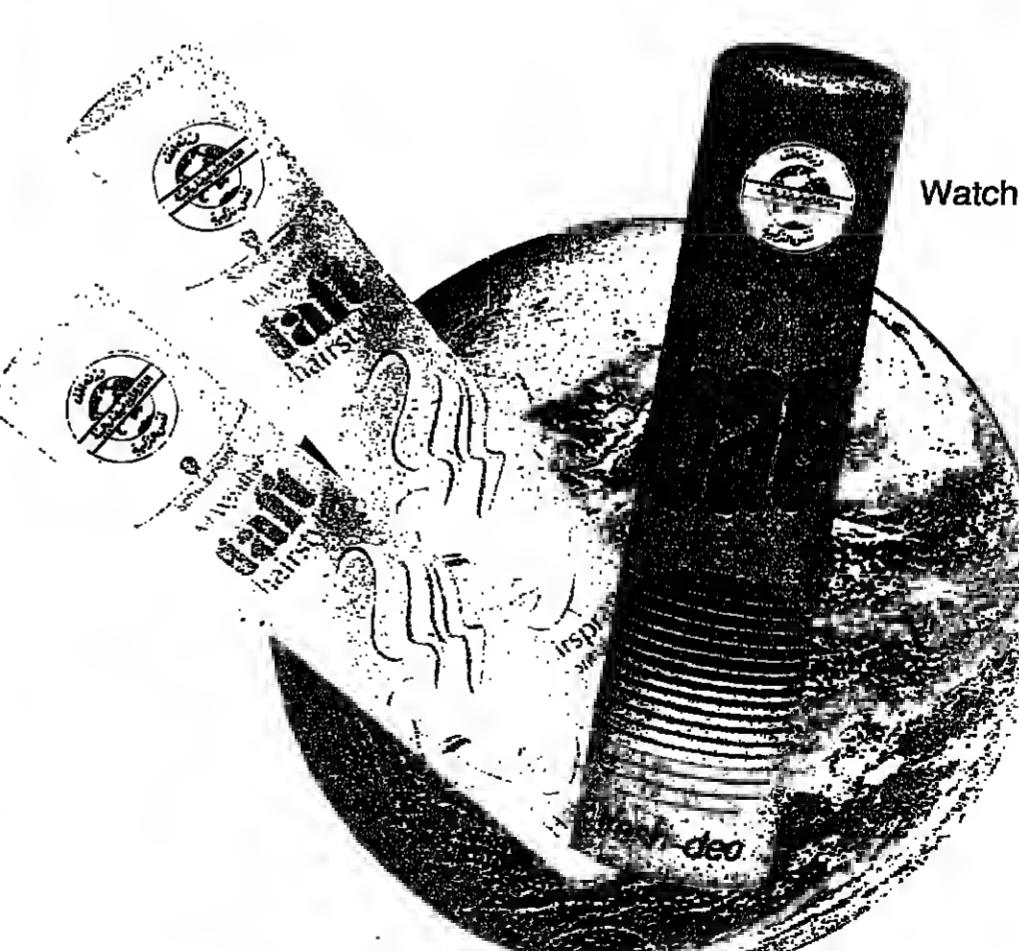
#### FILM

- ★ Two German films for children entitled "Peter Lässt Sich Nicht Verkohlen" and "Nur Ein Tropfen Öl" at 4 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

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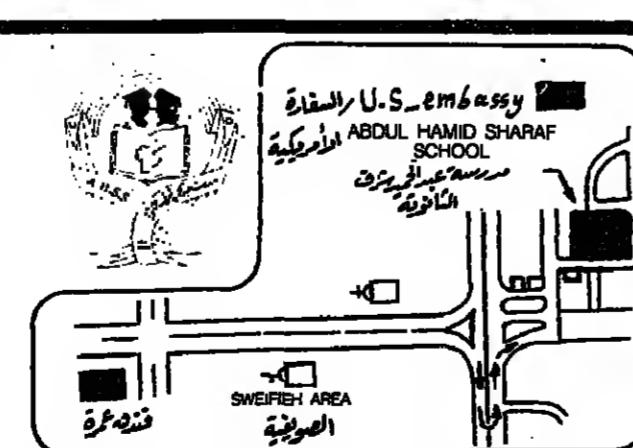


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# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1993

## Jordan Times

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## Green, amber and red

SUMMERS IN Jordan bring out swarms of young Jordanian drivers to the streets of the capital and other cities. It seems that when schools are out, our young men take to the thoroughfares of cities with a vengeance and often drive as if they have a licence to kill. School summer vacations have barely begun but the traffic situation in Amman and elsewhere in the Kingdom has already deteriorated to the point that many drivers have become too scared to take the wheels of their vehicles.

Why our young generation of drivers still gets away with murder is something that calls for a thorough examination. Admittedly Jordanian traffic police feel inhibited from arresting young traffic violators simply because many of them are the sons of dignitaries who feel and act as if they are above the law. Unless and until the traffic authorities are given the green light to apply the law equally on all Jordanians, irrespective of their social, economic or political status, there is no hope that the carnage on our roads could end. All that the country needs is to set an example for the people by treating them all equally when there are serious traffic violations. Otherwise, there is no telling when our young drivers will heed the traffic laws and rules of the Kingdom and stop taking the lives of innocent people or causing mayhem.

If all fails, the government may well need to raise the minimum age for drivers. Driving a car is a very serious and dangerous business. As long as the youth in this country carry on with utter disregard for the lives of people, they must be asked to forfeit the privilege of operating an automobile altogether. Raising the minimum age for acquiring a driving licence to 21 offers great possibilities for ending the carnage on Jordan's streets and highways. Our authorities are invited to reflect on this prescription for improving the country's record on traffic safety especially if they are unable to stop kids with big "wasta" from driving so recklessly.

Meanwhile, the parents of young dangerous drivers are called upon to exercise much more caution before they give their kids the key of the family car. Family control can go a long way to ameliorate the traffic situation in Jordan and parents must be served with notice that unless they move effectively in the direction of making their children obey the rules of traffic, they will also be accountable for any crimes they commit, both legally and economically.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily drew a contrast between the general situation prevailing in the Arab World on the eve of the outbreak of the Great Arab Revolt, which Jordan celebrates on June 10, and that which is prevailing at the moment. The Great Arab Revolt, led by Sharif Hussein Ben Ali, broke out at a time when the enemies of the Arabs had believed that the nation was in slumber and would not rise again, said the daily. The Sharif of Mecca proved these enemies to be wrong when he led the revolt to unite and free the Arabs, said the paper. It said that history repeats itself as we hear King Hussein's calls to the Arabs to confront their common challenges. The King's call comes amidst a dark chapter in Arab history, with despair widespread because of the nation's weakness in repelling aggression, continued the daily. The Hashemite King, following in the footsteps of his ancestors, is spearheading efforts to end this dark era and bearing the torch and the standards before the Arab Nation, the paper added. It said that the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, which Jordan just celebrates, are a reminder of these facts and serve as incentives for further endeavours to attain pan-Arab goals.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that a decision taken by the Islamic movement in Jordan, last week, to participate in the coming parliamentary elections under any circumstances, was tantamount to a green light to the government to enact a temporary election law replacing the existing one. Perhaps the Islamists' decision came as a surprise to many people who had thought that the Islamic movement would resist a new election law, said Taher Al Udwan. The decision, which was announced by the movement's spokesman Ibrahim Khreisai, can only corroborate the view that the Islamists would not be affected by new laws as they base the programme for the coming election campaign on such important issues as the outcome of the peace process, the writer noted. He said that the ball is now in the court of the other political parties which are expected to take their own decisions vis-a-vis a new election law. It should be noted, however, that though most of these parties are for changing the law, they do not favour the one-man-one-vote system, the writer continued. He said the nature of the election law to come will determine the type of democracy for the country.

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

RIYADH — Lotfi Alkhouri, one of Egypt's and the Arab World's best known Marxist writers, was dumbfounded in April to receive an invitation to Saudi Arabia, where his name has figured prominently on the blacklist for decades.

More surprising, Mr. Alkhouri received a red-carpet reception, was granted an audience with Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, and was invited by members of the royal family and other prominent Saudis to speak at public and private gatherings.

During a speech in which Mr. Alkhouri argued that world values beyond Islam are components of contemporary Arab culture, a man in the audience stood up to yell, "Mr. Lotfi, repeat to God!" But the fundamentalist critic was shouted down.

Mr. Alkhouri's invitation was part of a growing trend by traditionalist governments to turn to secularists and even Marxists to help battle fundamentalists determined to undermine established governments.

In Cairo, Tunis, Amman, Kuwait City, and perhaps most

## Opposition reports cause little stir in Iran

By Youssef Azmeh  
Reuter

TEHRAN — Reports by the opposition Mujahedeen Khalq of big raids against Iranian oil installations seemed to cause hardly a stir in Tehran last week.

Defence Minister Akbar Torkan would not confirm or deny the group's claims but told reporters Iran would strike again if necessary against exile bases across the border in Iraq.

Iranian analysts and foreign diplomats said although the group had from time to time succeeded in penetrating the 1,200 kilometres border, its sabotage attacks posed no serious threat to Iran's Islamic rulers.

The Iranians tend to react violently to these attacks because, like any other government, they will not tolerate armed incursions across their borders," one western diplomat said.

"But this does not indicate that the Mujahedeen pose a threat... they are more of an irritant than a threat," he added.

Iran responded two weeks ago to a spate of attacks by sending its fighter-bombers to hit Mujahedeen bases deep inside Iraq.

Mujahedeen spokesmen in Paris insist that recent attacks were planned and carried out by underground cells inside Iran — not from bases in Iraq.

The group, which fought on Iraq's side during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, maintains a well-funded army under President Saddam Hussein's protection.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates the force at 4,500 with about 100 captured tanks.

Its latest raids were described as revenge attacks for an activist assassinated in Pakistan last Friday. Iran has denied responsibility for the killing.

The Mujahedeen appear to be getting some attention from President Bill Clinton's new administration in Washington, which diplomats say has taken a harder line against Iran's Islamic rulers than the previous administration under George Bush.

"They (the Mujahedeen) are nothing in Iran. Clinton would be backing the wrong horse if he thought they could provide an alternative to the mullahs," one European envoy said.

Before 1979 the Mujahedeen were an underground group which combined Islamic and leftist ideas and helped overthrow the pro-western Shah monarchy in 1979.

Leftist radicalism soon put them at odds with the clergy-dominated Islamic government that came to power in Iran under the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"Pipelines in particular are vulnerable. You cannot put a soldier along every inch of a long pipeline," one said.

The Mujahedeen say they destroyed 11 pipelines and caused over \$100 million in damage in the border provinces of Kermanshah and Khuzestan last Monday.

Diplomats do not dismiss Mujahedeen reports out of hand but say some of their claims in the past proved far-fetched or exaggerated.

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The writer urged the Arab governments to seek assurance

that Washington would be a truly full partner in the search for attainment of a just peace. Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the United States should be told that it could not continue sponsoring the peace talks between the Arabs and Israel if it is determined to ignore the basic rights of the Palestinians. The writer said that Washington in the past few months had been directing more attention to the emigration of Syrian Jews to Israel than dealing with the continued Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

The Americans have been avoiding any reply to Palestinian demands for U.S. support to their legitimate rights in the coming round of negotiations and have been condoning Israel's arbitrary actions in the occupied territories, stressed the writer.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily expressed the view that the latest round of talks in Washington led to good progress on the Israeli-Syrian, Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Jordanian tracks.

Fahd Al Fanek said that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, who had led the Jordanian team to the talks, realised this fact and was brave enough to announce that peace could come in November this year.

The writer said that it is incumbent on the other heads of governments involved in the talks to prepare their people for the coming peace.

In light of a foreign ministers' meeting in Amman last week, one is hopeful that the Arab parties will have a united stand in the coming talks, said Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour.

The writer said that this unity should be manifested in the Arab World's approach towards the peace process, but most importantly towards dealing with the United States which stands behind Israel's gain in the past eight rounds.

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## Identity debate

### Many Arabs search for answers in a world beyond Islam

surprisingly here in Saudi Arabia, which already applies one of the world's strictest Muslim codes, influential Arab voices are openly advocating secularism, modernisation and pluralism as values that belong alongside Islam.

Old-time leftists, kept under wraps for more than two decades, and younger, unabashedly pro-western Arabs, are bursting onto intellectual ground exclusively reserved for militant Islamists or Arab nationalists since the 1960s.

They have the tacit, and sometimes overt, support of Arab ruling establishments concerned about the impact of extremists over social stability, international relations, economic progress, and their very existence.

The phenomenon of questioning the motives, aims, and methods of fundamentalists was evident this winter at Cairo's Book Fair. "Terrorism" and "Fundamentalism" became the topics of multiple debates at the two-week fair, and Islamists often found themselves on the defensive.

The debate behind the bloodshed and the pressure by religious conservatives for stricter adherence to fundamentalist principles

that eminent Muslim scholars denounce the fundamentalists' violent grab for power as well as clarify their position over the movements towards the West and its influences.

"Extremist fundamentalism is the result of western behaviour over centuries that has been unfair to Muslims. Still, as an Arab Muslim, I do not want to see the collapse of America," said Maarat Dawalib, former prime minister of Syria and a leading Muslim advocate who took refuge in Saudi Arabia several decades ago.

The debate has become the subject of differences within the fundamentalist establishment itself.

In the past few months, senior Muslim scholars of great influence, including Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Baz, the blind cleric who is Saudi Arabia's most powerful religious figure, and Sheikh Mohammad Tantawi, the head of Egypt's Islamic Jurisprudence, have openly sided with their governments, arguing strenuously that those who advocate violence to institute Islamic government are contravening the

spirit of Islam.

In this debate, Islamists of all stripes are wrestling with fundamental assumptions: Is the relationship with the West incompatible with Islam? Is pluralism in Arab politics banned by Islamic law? Can Islamic prohibitions against daily practices of the modern age, ranging from collecting interest on bank accounts, to banning women from driving, fit in with the 20th century?

In the end, the big question is whether the extremist interpretation of Islam can be a model for the future.

Mohammad Saeed Ashmawi, a judge in Egypt's Supreme Court, who has emerged as a principal figure in favour of tolerant interpretations of Islamic precepts, wrote recently: "Politicalised Islamic groups proclaim Islam to be a nation when in fact Islam is a religion."

Makram Moshammad Ahmad, an Egyptian columnist who was the subject of a failed assassination attempt by Muslim terrorists, has taken this argument further in his recent writings, defending secularism as the value that must be adopted by Arab societies.

"The issue is not who will stand

up to the so-called 'atheist secularists,'" he wrote, "because secularists are not necessarily non-believers but patriotic Arabs who, while remaining great believers in their religion, may see it necessary to separate the religion from the state."

The strongest militant Muslim belief challenged in this debate is the notion that the West is the cause of all Muslims' miseries.

This conviction is an extension of an ideological battle begun by the old left in the 1960s and picked up by the new religious right.

But that argument, which captured the imagination of millions of secular leftists Arabs as well as Muslim fundamentalists, is collapsing, too. Hazem Sagieh, a respected Lebanese journalist, has coined the phrase "Arab racism."

Documenting the cruelty and brutality of Muslims against Muslims — in Afghanistan, during the occupation of Kuwait, and in the terrorism undertaken in the name of Islam within various Arab countries — Mr. Sagieh has called upon Muslims to look inward before pointing fingers at others — *New York Times*.



## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Difficult task ahead of Majali's government

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

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## Radios, timing point to well-planned Aideed attack

By Paul Alexander  
The Associated Press

**MOGADISHU** — It started as just a routine day. It ended as one of the bloodiest slayings in U.N. peacekeeping history.

Dozens of gunmen, apparently keeping in contact by walkie-talkie, turned a stretch of road on the edge of Mogadishu into a killing zone where they pinned down a company of Pakistani soldiers and kept reinforcements at bay.

A simultaneous attack decimated troops guarding a food-distribution centre. When it was all over more than five hours later, 23 Pakistani soldiers were dead and 59 wounded. At least 15 Somalis

also were killed.

The killings Saturday marked a new phase of the crisis in Somalia. It was an open challenge to the U.N. force left behind after the departure of the large, mainly U.S. force that had kept peace since late last year.

How the U.N. force deals with the aftermath of the slaughter, and whether its authority can be restored, will help to determine the future of the international effort that has saved millions of Somalis from starvation.

U.N. officials are still piecing together the details. But accounts from military witnesses suggest the massacre was far more brutal and better coordinated than officials

thought.

Officials had given warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed, who controls southern Mogadishu, advance written notice last Friday that they planned to inspect the five sites where he has been allowed to keep weapons and former militiamen.

General Aideed long has been critical of the presence of foreign troops in Somalia, accusing them of favouritism in the country's factional disputes. But for the most part, his militiamen have kept away from the multinational military operation that began in Somalia in December.

The inspection of a site north of 21 October Road went smoothly. But as the group of

more than 130 soldiers approached 21 October just after 10 a.m. (1700 GMT) they came under fire from three directions from .50-calibre machine guns, assault rifles and small arms.

The Pakistanis' primary mode of transport — open pickup trucks — provided little protection. At least one bullet pierced one of the few armoured cars. Flak jackets only slowed the heavy ammunition.

Pakistan's headquarters in Somalia is at a soccer stadium less than a kilometre away, where noise from the pitched firefight carried easily.

Reinforcements scrambled to provide support. As they encountered roadblocks of

burning tyres, large rocks and rusting car parts, other snipers opened up from rooftops on both sides of the road, cutting off the rescue attempt. Side routes also were blocked.

At the same time, 13 lightly armed Pakistanis guarding a food distribution site near the radio station Gen. Aideed controls came under fire.

Several died quickly, others, some of them wounded, found shelter. Conserving ammunition, they fought back for three hours before they ran out of bullets.

The troops also were hindered by what they called a terrorist tactic: Gunmen used women and children as shields because they knew the soldiers would not shoot.

The Pakistani commander

climbed into a helicopter around 10:35 (1735 GMT) to assess the scenes. At 11:20 (1820 GMT), he called U.N. military headquarters. Two minutes later, the Quick Reaction Force — America's biggest contribution to the multinational operation — was called in to help.

Hundreds of Americans left the former U.S. embassy compound by 11:35 (1845 GMT), but their arrival was delayed as they, too, became targets for the gunmen. Three were wounded.

Finally, at 3 p.m. (2200 GMT), they linked up with the surviving Pakistanis. Reinforcements and Italian tanks from northern Mogadishu also provided security. Mop-up work continued for two hours

before dusk forced the troops to pull out.

Six Pakistanis initially were missing, but five were released Monday by Gen. Aideed and said they had not been mistreated. There have been several false reports that the body of the sixth has been sighted.

Gen. Aideed has denied responsibility for the bloodbath, accusing the Pakistanis of provoking the attack by seizing his

radio station and opening fire on defenceless civilians.

Pakistan's deputy commander, Colonel Asif Duraiz, vehemently denied Gen. Aideed's charges.

U.N. officials are investigating the incident to determine who was responsible but privately say there is little doubt Gen. Aideed orchestrated it out of desperation because his influence has been waning.

### CARS FOR SALE (Extension for one week)

An international organisation has for sale 10 cars — customs not paid — to the highest bidder. Specifications are as stated below:

Those interested to see the cars are requested to contact Dolphine Co., at the Amman Customs Department on tel.: No. 755285. Bidders should send their offers not later than 12:00 noon Monday 21.6.93 in a sealed envelope marked "cars for sale" to the following address:

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3) Volvo Station Wagon 1991 A/C, R/C, 4 cylinder, 23,133 KMS, very good condition. **Base price JD 10,000**

4) Land Rover 1990, 4WD, RHD, diesel 12, 612 kms, needs maintenance. **Base price JD 5,000/-**

5) Suzuki Samurai JX 1990, 4WD, 4 cylinder, 25,938 KMS, needs maintenance. **Base price JD 3,000**

6) Nissan Patrol 1991, 25,749 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 1,750**

7) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,491 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 2,500**

8) Nissan Patrol 1991, 32,532 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 2,500**

9) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,946 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 1,750**

10) Nissan Patrol 1991, 31,225 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 1,750**

## Way cleared for debt rescheduling talks

(Continued from page 1)

only affects households which consume more than 300 kilowatts per month, a rate seen applicable only to low-income groups and small-scale industries. Consumers with less than 300 kilowatts per month consumption represent 83 per cent of the consumption sector in the country, Mr. Asfour said.

The exemption granted to the agricultural sector, Mr. Asfour said, was in line with the government's policy supporting and encouraging farmers to increase output. The sector already receives a 40 per cent subsidy for its power consumption, the minister said.

Mr. Gammo said the amendments and additions to the consumption tax structure and the increase in electricity tariffs completed a series of measures that Jordan was obliged to implement under its agreement with the IMF.

"We have completed our side of the agreement and are now trying to fix dates for (the debt-rescheduling) negotiations suitable for all parties," the finance minister said. "Hopefully the negotiations could be held this month."

Mr. Gammo confirmed that the steering committee of the London Club of commercial creditors "has forwarded an acceptable formula" on resched-

uling and converting Jordan's estimated \$1 billion commercial debts.

The minister did not give details, but well-informed economist Fahed Fanek wrote last week that the formula represents a better deal than ever secured by a Third World debtor and meant a 58.5 per cent reduction in Jordan's commercial debts spread over a period of 30 years. The expected agreement follows four years of negotiations.

The Paris Club, which groups creditor governments and government lending agencies, holds around \$4.5 billion in Jordan's total external debts of \$7 billion. The rest is owed to Russia, former East bloc states and Arab lending agencies in addition to the London Club.

The Kingdom has already rescheduled debt payments due to Paris Club by June 1993 by 15 to 20 years and will seek similar or better terms for payments due by the end of 1995

or mid-1996.

Simultaneous with its rescheduling efforts, Jordan is also seeking debt relief and increased assistance from European Community (EC) member countries.

According to Western diplomats in Amman, Jordan's negotiations with the Paris Club are not expected to be difficult or pose any major problems, but outright write-off of all or part of the Kingdom's debts may not be easy.

"Most of the European governments are sympathetic to Jordan and appreciate its moderate political stands and they would like to help," one of the diplomats said. "But the problem is that they cannot come up with any across-the-board write-off since such a formula would set precedents that other Third World debtors could cite and demand."

Switzerland has agreed to convert Jordan's \$8 million debts owed to Bern into outright grant.

obtain a stamp on their identity documents proving they had voted.

A pensioner in his 80s who cast a blank ballot said he was afraid of trouble if he did not have the stamp when he presented his identity papers at his frequent dealings with the bureaucracy.

**Rafsanjani**

(Continued from page 1)

pie were seen voting for Mr. Tavakkoli and none for Mr. Taheri.

Some voters were seen casting blank ballot papers, apparently to



STEPPED UP VIGIL: Pakistani soldiers patrol a Mogadishu suburb Thursday amid high tension after a clash with Somali gunmen in which 23 Pakistani soldiers were killed (AFP photo)

## Stage set for Mogadishu showdown

(Continued from page 1)

ment in Somalia.

Gen. Aideed, flanked by his closest supporters in the Somali National Alliance (SNA), began his news conference by punching the air with a clenched fist and chanting "Allahu Akbar" three times.

But in a conciliatory gesture, Gen. Aideed said aid workers evacuated from Mogadishu should return and those who killed the Pakistanis last Saturday should be brought to justice.

The terrible incident should be investigated thoroughly and those responsible brought to justice," he said.

Gen. Aideed called for an independent investigation by someone other than the United Nations. He said he would abide by its findings.

The U.N. version says Gen. Aideed was informed of a routine inspection of a weapon storage site and the Pakistanis were ambushed as they returned to their military compound.

UNOSOM has accused Gen.

Aideed of inciting Somalis and trying to generate anti-U.N. sentiment by broadcasting false propaganda.

Gen. Aideed at the terrace news conference sat beside another warlord, his ally Omar Jess, whose forces were recently driven out of the southern port city of Kiswahili by fighters loyal to ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre's son-in-law Mohammad Said Hersi, known as General Morgan.

Both warlords said the United Nations was continuing to attack Somalis. Gen. Aideed said Pakistanis had shot dead a Somali,

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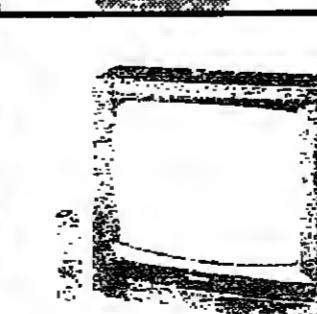
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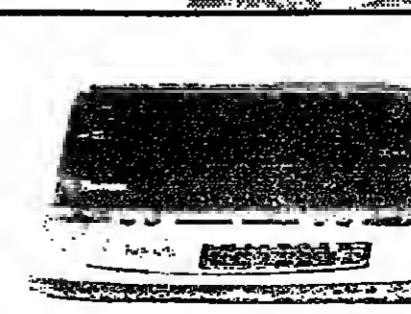
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## IMF holds up loan for Russia, angering Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus has held up approval of a key \$1.5 billion loan for Russia in a surprisingly tough stance that has drawn the ire of Moscow and Washington, monetary sources said Thursday.

They said Mr. Camdessus wanted Russia to take some action to put its battered economy in shape before submitting the loan to the IMF board for approval.

The delay has sparked accusations that Mr. Camdessus is undercutting Russia's reform-minded Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fyodorov, who has been counting on speedy approval of the loan to buttress his position in the government.

"This will damage him (Fyodorov) in the eye of the prime minister," said one source, who declined to be identified.

Monetary sources said Mr. Camdessus had tentatively agreed to submit the loan to the IMF board on July 2, but they stressed that date was not definite.

That would be in time for the economic summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in Tokyo on July 7-9.

Russian President Boris Yelt-

sin is expected to meet leaders of the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — at the summit, and U.S. officials have said they want the IMF loan approved by then.

The delay in the loan has caused consternation among some U.S. officials eager to show Russia that it has international support for its tough reforms, monetary sources said.

IMF staff and the Russian authorities agreed on May 22 on an economic reform programme that was designed to pave the way for the \$1.5 billion loan under the fund's so-called systemic transformation facility.

That programme calls for Russia to tighten its grip on its public finances and dramatically increase interest rates to slash the monthly inflation rate to five per cent by the end of 1993 from more than 20 per cent earlier this year.

It is not clear why Mr. Camdessus has taken such a tough stance toward Russia. But some sources suggested that he wanted to avoid a repeat of the IMF's experience with Russia last year, when the fund loaned Moscow \$1 billion, only to have the country fail to carry out its promise to rein in inflation.

That failure stemmed mostly from the unwillingness of the central bank to tighten credit and raise interest rates.

Under the most recent plan, the Russian Central Bank has agreed to raise its key "rediscount" interest rate close to levels prevailing in the interbank market by July 15.

That was not an easy decision as the higher rates are likely to squeeze industry hard and could boost unemployment.

The central bank made a start in raising rates in recent days, increasing its rediscount rate to 110 per cent from 100 per cent. But the rate is still well below market levels of around 150 to 200 per cent.

Mr. Camdessus may be waiting for the central bank to make further progress towards that goal before submitting the loan to the fund's board for approval, monetary sources said.

Under the IMF's systemic transformation facility, countries



Michel Camdessus

with high or accelerating inflation must take action to stabilise monetary conditions before they can borrow money.

Monetary sources said, however, that Russia had complained that such preconditions were not mentioned in the agreement it reached with IMF staff in Moscow on May 22.

Mr. Camdessus's critics also argue that inflation in Russia has already shown signs of easing, thanks to earlier actions taken by the central bank.

## Czechs to get first oil from West in 1995

PRAGUE (R) — An oil pipeline connecting Czech refineries to the West for the first time will start delivering oil to the Czech Republic from Germany in March 1995, the industry and trade minister has said.

"That is when our (oil) dependence on the East will finish," Vladimir Dlouhy was quoted by the daily Lidové Noviny as saying.

The so-called Ingolstadt pipeline will break the Czechs' total dependence on pipelines from Russia and Yugoslavia through Slovakia, which, with the Czech Republic, formed Czechoslovakia until the two split in January 1993.

## European currencies, inflation and E. Europe top BIS agenda

ZURICH (R) — Inflationary dangers, European monetary union and aid to eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union will top the agenda when central bankers from around the world meet in Switzerland this weekend.

International monetary sources also say that delegates, gathering for the annual meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basle, might consider capital adequacy questions and the yen's recent surge to record high values.

A major concern is the future of European economic and monetary union (EMU) following currency market turbulence in

the latter part of 1992 in Europe, resulting in the worst foreign exchange market crisis since the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, one senior monetary source said.

The Danes may have voted in favour of the Maastricht treaty (on political, economic and monetary union), but there are still plenty of loose ends in European monetary union, "he added.

The BIS meeting is not a policy-making forum, but it gives officials from its 32 member central banks and delegations from other countries an opportunity to exchange views on international monetary issues.

Future links between the European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) currency grid and sterling and the lira, which were both forced out of the system by speculative pressure last September, are certain to be discussed.

Another pressing issue is the future site of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), forerunner of an EC-wide central bank, which should be set up by 1996 under the Maastricht treaty.

Although the bankers have no formal say in the EMI's site, they must be concerned that a decision is still pending just six months before the EMI is due to start bearing.

Delegations from Russia, the Baltic states and several Eastern European nations are expected to make cases for more improved Western assistance.

German consumer inflation, at 4.2 per cent, is among the highest in the EC and is keeping the Bundesbank from making further cuts in relatively high domestic interest rates, the burden of which the rest of Europe is also bearing.

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the spokeswoman added.

Norway, Denmark, Sweden

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highest official aid as a per-

centage of GDP, while Spain, the

United States, Ireland and

Greece were among the lowest.

Washington, Japan, France

and Germany had the highest

official aid volume in 1991, the

report added.

## Actionaid says Third World aid is declining, not reaching poor

LONDON (R) — International aid to the world's poorest countries is declining and most of it is not reaching the neediest people, a report has said.

Actionaid, a Britain-based charity which compiled the report with 50 voluntary agencies, said if aid was effectively targeted its impact could be tripled without any increase in funds.

The major donor governments spend more than \$2 million pounds (\$49 million) on aid. Yet not one of them can accurately say what proportion of that money is actually targeted at those who need it most, the bil-

lion people living in absolute poverty, "Martin Griffiths, director of Actionaid, said in a statement.

The report, "The Reality of Aid", said 13 of 20 nations are set to cut or freeze official aid to the Third World.

"Donor countries are curtailing aid to developing countries using recessionary pressures as an excuse," it claimed, adding that the best estimates indicate that only 10 per cent is targeted directly to poverty alleviation.

"Most countries don't know where their aid money is going. It's not given a high enough

priority within governments," a spokeswoman for the charity said. "It's time something was done to solve this situation."

The report found that only five of the 20 major donor nations have reached a United Nations aid target of 0.7 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) and four of them were considering cutbacks.

It uncovered huge disparities in targeting. Egypt and Nicaragua both received more than 400 per person in 1989, four times as much as Somalia and 20 times as much as Bangladesh.

Another concern emphasized in the report was that aid for the poor was being deflected into other areas. "In the majority of donor countries commercial and political objectives are more important than reducing poverty," the spokeswoman added.

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### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

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1.8230/40  
1.4600/10  
33.47/48  
5.4750/800  
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106.35/40  
7.2040/40  
6.8750/850  
6.2150/250  
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U.N. calls feuding presidents to Geneva talks

## Muslim convoy mortared after British shoot Croat attackers

VITEZ, Bosnia (R) — The lead trucks in a huge Muslim relief convoy came under mortar fire in central Bosnia Friday after British troops shot dead two Croat gunmen who attacked it, killing two drivers, U.N. officials said.

The mortar barrage occurred with much of the 200-truck "convoy of joy" stalled by Croat ambushes carried out to avenge a Muslim army offensive in central Bosnia that killed and displaced thousands of Bosnian Croats.

A U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman in Zagreb said that after British and Croat soldiers traded fire in Vitez, the first 24 lorries in the convoy proceeded eastward on a mountain road without a U.N. escort.

"The ill-fated convoy then met with further resistance when 24 of the trucks were stopped at Nova Bila and hit by mortars," the spokesman said.

He had no immediate word on casualties, damage or the fate of the trucks.

U.N. military sources said British U.N. peacekeeping troops accompanying the convoy through Vitez fired back after losing off warning shots when their armoured cars and the lead aid truck were repeatedly shot at by Croat soldiers.

"We confirm we hit two Croats and they are believed to have been killed. A third, armed with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, escaped," one source said.

Earlier U.N. sources had reported that Croats killed when they opened fire on convoy trucks. The latest report was the first word that the Croat gunmen had fired at British escort vehicles.

Two convoy drivers were killed

during the shootout, one at close range. He lay slumped to one side, blood splattered across the cab.

### Leaders to meet

Meanwhile, the presidents of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia agreed to meet in Geneva next week to discuss steadily worsening violence in former Yugoslavia, international mediators said Friday.

German State Secretary Dieter Kastrop said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told a meeting of NATO and former Warsaw pact states his country would take part in planned joint peacekeeping ventures in the future.

But Mr. Kozyrev's remarks to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) did not necessarily mean the Russian government, facing strong opposition from pro-Serb conservatives, would send a contingent to Bosnia, Mr. Kastrop told reporters.

Russia and other East European states are under pressure from Western allies at the one-day NACC meeting to help out with much-needed troops for the safe areas plan endorsed by the U.N. Security Council vote a week ago.

"We put the request to Kozyrev, but there's been no reaction so far," Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta told journalists.

Mr. Kastrop quoted a communiqué to be issued later by the NACC as saying: "We commend NATO's decision yesterday ... to offer its protective air power" for the six havens, where the presence of U.N. forces is meant to avert attacks by besieging Serbs.

The offer, which would allow NATO planes to bomb the Serbs if the U.N. troops came under attack, is a significant new step by the West towards military involvement in the almost two-year-old Yugoslav civil war, diplomats said.

**NATO offer welcomed**

In Athens, former communist states threw their weight Friday behind NATO plans to provide

air cover for U.N. troops in Bosnia, but there was no immediate pledge from Russia to send troops to help guard Muslim safe areas.

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### U.S. deploys troops

About 300 U.S. troops are expected to arrive in Macedonia next week to join a U.N. peacekeeping force there. Washington's first commitment of ground forces in the former Yugoslavia.

At NATO meeting in Athens, the United States earlier Thursday offered to send the troops to join a 700-strong Nato monitoring force to help prevent the spread of civil war.

"I would think in the next week or so they would be on the ground," Defence Department spokesman Bob Hall told reporters in Washington. He said the American combat troops would probably be sent from Europe.

President Bill Clinton said Thursday that putting the U.S. troops in the international monitoring force in Macedonia was a chance to limit the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

"We've said all along that we would support the United Nations in limiting the conflict. It's a very limited thing. No combat, but a chance to limit the conflict," spokesman Eric Falt said.

The United States has said repeatedly it will not put troops into Bosnia unless they are a part of any force used to police a final peace agreement between Serbs, Muslims and Croats involved in the civil war.



The U.N. provincial director (left), speaking through a translator, talks to a crowd of around 600 protesters who camped out in front of U.N.

headquarters demanding that Prince Norodom Sihanouk takes power June 11 (AFP photo)

## Defeated Cambodian government stages more poll demonstrations

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's Government Party, defeated in last month's polls, staged more protests Friday to demand an inquiry into alleged fraud by U.N. peacekeepers said most of them fizzled out.

"Several spontaneous demonstrations were planned today throughout Cambodia but most of them have so far failed to materialise," spokesman Eric Falt said.

U.N. election officials finalised plans for the first meeting Monday of the constituent assembly designed to deliver democracy after a quarter-century of chaos and bloodshed.

The Government Party won 51 seats to the FUNCINPEC Royalist opposition's 58 in the 120-seat assembly which is to write a constitution and form a government in three months.

The formerly communist government refuses to accept the results, in what diplomats call a negotiating tactic to win a share of power in a proposed interim administration. Prime Minister Hun Sen Thursday predicted bloodshed and breakaway provinces unless fraud claims were independently investigated.

Mr. Hun Sen said his party — installed by Vietnamese invaders in 1979 — would attend Monday's assembly meeting. He said

a new constitution and government would depend on whether fraud complaints were addressed satisfactorily.

The United Nations and diplomats from nine countries have declared the poll fair. But the prime minister predicted widespread unrest in protest at the results. "We have to examine every effort in order to avoid a bloodbath," he said.

He told reporters Thursday at least three provinces had "decided to secede" in protest. Hun Neng, governor of eastern Kompong Cham and Mr. Hun Sen's brother, demanded that U.N. troops and police withdraw from the province.

Mr. Falt said a crowd gathered

Thursday near a U.N. office in the province, apparently to try to seize the radio. He said a local

Government Party official

threatened staff and another person fired shots in the air.

Two anti-U.N. protests, both

involving about 150 people, were held in the province Friday. Mr. Falt said. In Kompong Cham Town, schools were closed Friday. In Svay Rieng Province, protesters broke windows at the U.N. police office.

But Mr. Falt added: The CPAF

(government army) leadership is

firmly in control of its troops and unambiguously committed to the

peace process."

The U.N. said Thursday the

government army and two small

guerrilla factions which once

fought it had agreed to merge

into a new army loyal to a demo-

cratic government.

Royalist Party leader Prince

Norodom Ranariddh has offered

the Government Party a coalition

but diplomats believe persona-

animosity between the prince and

Mr. Hun Sen is complicating any

deal.

**Briton, 2 Cambodians kidnapped**

A Briton and two Cambodians

working with the British mine

clearance aid organisation Halo

Trust were kidnapped by Khmer

Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia's

western province of Pursat, a

U.N. spokesman said Friday.

The British volunteer worker,

identified as Christopher Moon

from Reading, and his team of 25

Cambodians were working on

mine clearing programme and

were on their way back to their

office at Pursat town when they

were detained by a group of 15

armed guerrillas, a British embas-

sy official said.

Two of them were wearing

Khmer Rouge uniforms, U.N.

spokesman Eric Falt said.

## Thais throw sex stones in glass parliament house

BANGKOK (R) — In Thailand, where many men take second, third and fourth wives, charges of adultery are being buried at a man who has none, the prime minister. Television sets throughout the kingdom have been tuned to a three-day parliamentary no-confidence debate as citizens awaited a promised opposition attack on the personal life of mild-mannered Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai. On Thursday, the opposition delivered. A stern-faced Chuan was asked to "gracefully clarify" his relationship with the divorced mother of his son. Mr. Chuan, who has vowed not to respond to opposition charges about personal matters, says the boy is his, but says he is a bachelor. Opposition member of parliament Pairote Suwanakutai, in a speech, said he was able to fight through boos and shouted objections from members of Mr. Chuan's five-party coalition to read into the record a newspaper interview given by the woman, Pakdipon Sucharitkul, in which she said she fell in love with Chuan in 1984. Mr. Pairote said he had proof that Ms. Pakdipon was not divorced until 1986. "Any person who commits adultery is a sinner," opposition heavyweight Chalearn Yoobamrung later told the body. "My mother told me never to take liberty with another man's wife." An ally of Mr. Chuan rose to accuse Mr. Chalearn of doing just that. Mr. Chalearn had an affair with a cashier, parliamentarian Arkom Engeehuan, said, and then had an affair with the cashier's daughter. Mr. Chalearn denied it.

He told reporters Thursday at least three provinces had "decided to secede" in protest. Hun Neng, governor of eastern Kompong Cham and Mr. Hun Sen's brother, demanded that U.N. troops and police withdraw from the province.

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# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1993 9

## Bulls win 1st game of NBA finals

PHOENIX (Agencies) — Chalk one up to experience and move on, the Suns say. Time to get greedy, say the Bulls.

On a workout day Thursday after the two-time defending champion Chicago Bulls beat Phoenix 100-92 in game one of the best-of-seven NBA finals, both sides said game two would be different — and the difference would be that now the Suns had some experience in the league's ultimate crucible.

"The first game is not an indication of where the series is going to lead us," said Chicago superstar Michael Jordan.

"We felt that we caught them maybe sleeping, not knowing what to expect in the finals," Jordan said.

"We feel that we have an opportunity to be aggressive, be greedy. I like the attitude of this team right now, very relaxed, very confident, very focused."

Phoenix point guard Kevin Johnson was cheerful despite his poor game. "This is the first darn game of the series. You cannot overreact."

Johnson came in early Thursday morning to watch film of the game, while avoiding his coaches. "I didn't want to let them get their fangs in me," he said. "I wanted to watch the film first so I'd have some answers for them."

What he saw was some good Chicago defense.

"They made a concerted effort keeping me from penetrating, not



Bulls ace Michael Jordan (left)

letting me have a clear shot to the basket, which is what we expected. We just didn't expect it to be that effective."

Johnson said the unknown factor of being in a finals for the first time had been the biggest factor.

"The hardest thing to know how to approach a series and a game that you've never been in before," he said. "That was the hard part, the unknown, not knowing what to expect."

He added: "There's no substitute for experience. Now we have experience in a finals game."

Charles Barkley, Phoenix's other superstar flop, said: "It's definitely a different air of excit-

ment being here in the finals." He added: "We got the first one out of the way, now we can just play."

Barkley felt he just had a bad shooting night, and said there was a danger of over-strategizing. "Everybody's a genius today," he said.

Jordan had a warning for B.J. Armstrong, who guards Johnson, and for Horace Grant, who matches up with Barkley: "Be prepared for game two because both of these players are going to want to come back and kind of redeem themselves."

The Bulls, looking for a third successive title in the best of seven play-offs, will have to wait until the NBA announces its new salary limits next month before starting talks.

## Fans pay last respects to Croatian basketball star

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — More than 6,000 fans turned out in Zagreb's main sports hall Thursday to applaud one last time for Drazen Petrovic, the Croatian basketball star killed Monday in a car crash in Germany.

There were also tears as a big screen showed highlights of Drazen's play, including his performances with the New Jersey Nets, where he was one of the NBA's top shooting guards.

Drazen, 28, was known as the "Mozart of basketball" among his Croatian fans.

"He was a winner, except on that damned Monday, when he did not have a chance to reverse defeat into victory," lamented Mirko Novosel, a recruiter for the Croatian national team.

"I made my daily itinerary according to his games," said Miladen Jelic, a 15-year-old fan. "What shall I do now?"

Petrovic was riding in a car driven by his girlfriend when it stalled out of control on a rain-slick autobahn and crashed into a truck blocking the road. He was killed instantly.

He was to be buried Friday in Zagreb. Most of Croatia's leading citizens, including president Franjo Tudjman, were expected to pay their respects at the funeral.



LEBANON BEAT INDIA 2-1 IN WORLD CUP PRELIMINARY: Lebanon beat India 2-1 in a World Cup Asian Zone qualifying match Friday. In above photo by AFP, India's defender Subir Ghosh (right) tries to block an attack by Lebanon's Mohammad Messemani (left) during their Group D match. Lebanon thus chalked up eight points, after two wins, a draw and a loss in Seoul, while India was at the bottom with one point after three losses here. Lebanon scored first with Hassan Ayoob's penalty in the 41st minute, but the Indians equalised three minutes later when Bhupinder Thakur made a solo attack on goal. The Lebanese notched the winner in the 79th minute through Raffi Joumaya. Bahrain trounced Hong Kong 3-0 in the second Group D match of the day.

### Group D Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
South Korea	7	6	1	0	20	1	13
Bahrain	7	3	3	1	9	3	9
Lebanon	8	2	4	2	8	9	8
Hong Kong	7	2	1	4	8	16	5
India	7	0	1	6	5	21	1

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## U.S. Cup

### Brazil, Germany draw; England disgraced

WASHINGTON (R) — The defensive slip-ups and lapses of concentration which have cost Brazil in recent World Cups came back to haunt them as world champions Germany staged a remarkable comeback from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 with Brazil in the U.S. Cup Thursday.

Brazil looked unstoppable in the first half as they built a 3-0 lead, at times making the world champions look silly with their unique, imitable brand of soccer.

If their first half display did not excite the American public, then soccer's cause in the United States is lost.

But in the second half the 34,000 crowd at the RFK Stadium saw the other Brazil, a team who play with an unbelievable casualness, committing needless fouls, giving the ball away and arguing with the referee.

The Germans, famed for their powers of recovery, took full advantage, pulling two goals back and then equalising in injury time with the Brazilian defence seemingly asleep.

Jürgen Klinsmann beat a hesitant Brazilian defence to a throw-in to head home the equaliser which, in typical German style, came in injury time.

His goal climaxed a stunning turnaround for the Germans who had suffered a humiliating first 45 minutes on a torrid afternoon.

Brazil raced to a 3-0 lead in 39 minutes with a Thomas Helmer own goal, a Careca penalty and a classy goal by Luisinho as the world champions suffered in the heat.

Klinsmann pulled the first goal back in the 60th minute and Andreas Moeller scored the second 10 minutes from the end as Brazil replaced their flowing first half soccer with niggly fouls and defensive lapses.

Brazilian fans have seen it all before.

In the 1982 World Cup, their beloved team was knocked out by Italy, who took advantage of three amateurish defensive lapses.

In 1986, Brazil threw away an early lead, dominated the game and missed a late penalty against France before going down in a penalty shoot-out.

In the last World Cup, they were again knocked out by losing a match to Argentina which they had dominated.

Brazilians fear that their team, unanimously regarded as the best in the world to watch, could prove their own worst enemies again in 1994.

#### Teams:

Brazil — Taifare, Jorginho, Julio Cesar, Marcio Santos, Branco (Nonato), Duanga, Luisinho, Rai, Valdeir (Almir), Careca, Elivelton (Cafu).

Germany — Andreas Koepke, Thomas Helmer, Jürgen Kohler, Guido Buchwald, Michael Zorc (Thomas Strunz), Andreas Moeller, Stefan Effenberg, Christian Ziege, Lothar Matthaeus, Matthias Sammer (Karlheinz Riedle), Jürgen Klinsmann.



Germany's Andreas Moeller (left) and Brazil's Branco fight for the ball during their U.S. Cup match (AFP photo)

been brought up to battle.

"I've been taught that if things aren't going your way, and they never do all the time, when times are tough and you're a bit low in confidence, it's up to you to pick yourself up off the ground."

"It's no good looking round, making excuses or looking for

other people to help you."

No decision is likely to be made about ending Taylor's three-year reign until the team return from the U.S., but English Football Association chairman Bert Millichip admitted Thursday:

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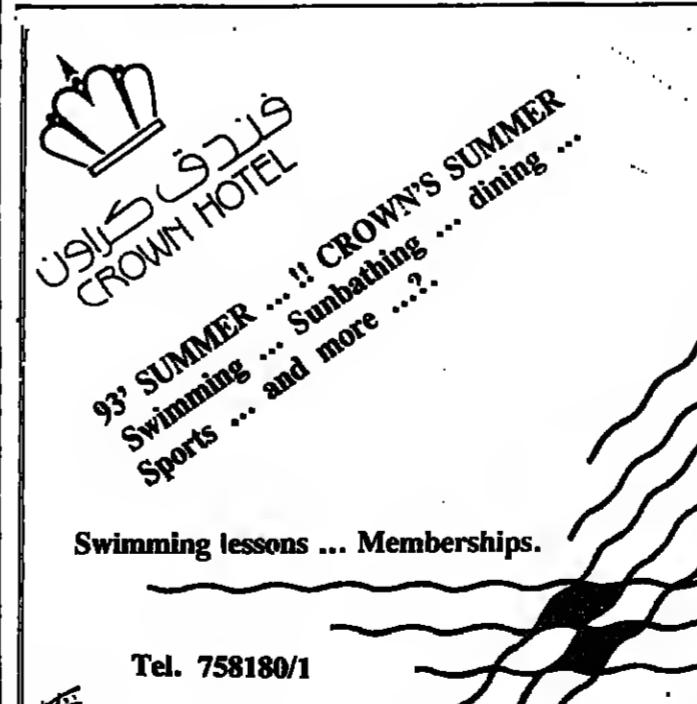
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EAST	+ A 8 7 5 4	+ 9 6 2	+ E 5 2	+ A 7
WEST	+ K 9 7 2	+ Q J 10 6 3	+ 10 8	+ J 8 4
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## Jewish terrorists plan attacks on Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish extremists are organising underground militia units with plans to attack Palestinian peace negotiators and sabotage Middle East peace talks, a newspaper reported Friday.

The Hadashot tabloid featured an interview with a cell organiser in the occupied West Bank identified only as "Shatz," a Hebrew acronym for "public messenger."

It quoted an unidentified senior intelligence official as saying the Shin Bet undercover squads were prepared to deal with the problem.

In response to the article, the army and police said only that they were not aware of any undergrounds.

In the report, Shatz acknowledged that the underground was still in its amateurish first stages.

He said that, unlike a Jewish underground that terrorised Palestinians in the early 1980s, there was no explosives expert in his group. Shatz also recounted how he ploughed his car into a garbage dumpster while following Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

Ori Orr, chairman of parliament's defence committee, questioned the accuracy of the report, but said that prospects of Israel withdrawing from the occupied land has stirred sensitivity among Jewish settlers who "face a sea of uncertainty."

"Politically, there is a reason for this tension," Mr. Orr told Israel Radio. "We must careful about everything we say."

A settler leader said the group was unrepresentative. "I think the media is trying to fan the fires," Israel Harel of the West Bank settlers' council said.

The nascent underground de-

scribed in Hadashot went beyond the gun-toting vigilantes who trash Arab homes and cars, generally in response to attacks on settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shatz said him that the group's goal was to stop the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, which threatened a continued Jewish presence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The organisation, comprised of Israeli army combat veterans, did not necessarily plan to kill its targets, Shatz said. "An assassination attempt would be enough for people to get the hint," he said. They believe attacks would make Palestinians more extreme and cause them to walk out of the peace process.

In any case, Shatz told Hadashot, the group was waiting for rabbinical approval to carry out an attack.

### Settlers protest Golan

Leaders of the 110,000 Jewish settlers of the occupied territories announced Friday a series of demonstrations against Israel's offer to trade part of the Golan Heights for peace with Syria.

"At a time when the peace talks are resuming we want to let it be known that Rabin has no mandate to evacuate the Golan," said Aharon Domb, settlers' council spokesman.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is ready to pull out part of the strategic plateau if Syria will agree to open borders and diplomatic and trade ties at peace talks which resume in Washington Tuesday.

From Sunday, 1,000 settlers will camp outside the Israeli parliament while another 1,000 join sit-ins outside ministers' homes, Mr. Domb told AFP.

## Australia to accept PLO representative from Tunis

CANBERRA (R) — Australia will allow a direct representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Tunis headquarters to take up a position in Canberra, Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said Friday.

Australia had also agreed to receive a high-level PLO delegation, Mr. Evans said in a statement. The PLO is now represented in Canberra by an Australian national.

"These decisions come at an important juncture in the Middle East peace process, when moderation and flexibility from all sides are required to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations," Mr. Evans said.

Growing opposition to the peace process from extremist Islamic groups, including Hamas, (highlights) the importance of countries such as Australia extending encouragement to the forces of moderation within the PLO," he said.

Hamas, a rival of the PLO for leadership of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, opposes the current round of Middle East peace talks.

## U.N. team extends Iraq stay

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A small team of U.N. experts on ballistic missiles has extended its stay in Iraq for more meetings with the Iraqis, a U.N. source said Friday.

Nikita Smidovich, a veteran U.N. inspector, and four other missile experts, had been due to leave Baghdad Friday.

The source declined to say how long they were staying or why but in the past there have been unexpected delays when the U.N. inspection teams hit snags with the Iraqis.

U.N. officials said in New York the U.N. disarmament committee for Iraq has been stopped by Iraqi authorities from setting up television monitors at two rocket test stands near Baghdad.

It was Iraq's latest alleged defiance of U.N. Resolution 715, which was passed after the 1991 Gulf war and calls for Iraq to allow U.N. observers unimpeded access to its weapons facilities to ensure the elimination of all its weapons of mass-destruction.

Spokesman Tim Trevan told reporters that Iraqi authorities had prevented the installation of permanent television monitors at rocket test sites in Yawn Al Azim and Al Rafah, 65 kilometres south and southwest of Baghdad, respectively.

Mr. Smidovich arrived in Baghdad last Friday to monitor Iraq's ballistic missile potential and press for full compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Ten other U.N. experts, led by Patrice Palanque of France, are also in Iraq. They are on an open-ended monitoring mission and had not planned to leave on Friday.

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Lebanese woman who was raped and shot in the head by a sole gunman alleged to be an agent of Kuwaiti government has set certain conditions for her return to the emirate for the trial of the suspect.

Naim Farhat, 35, who is undergoing treatment in the United States after surviving the March 2, 1991 attack in which her father and brother were shot dead, is demanding that her personal safety be assured by the government of Kuwait, that the trial be open to the media and human rights organisations and that the Kuwaiti government pay all expenses for her travel, accompanied by doctors, lawyers and personal bodyguards.

Miss Farhat, in a letter sent to her Kuwaiti lawyer Mohammad Al Hilal and signed by her brother Naim Farhat, is asking for a postponement of the trial date from June 16 to mid-July.

In the meantime, Miss Farhat, whose family was settled in the emirate throughout the seven-month Iraqi occupation which ended in February 1991, is demanding that the suspect, who has not been identified, be denied bail pending trial.

A suggestion by the lawyer that the suspect could be granted bail if Miss Farhat failed to turn up in court on June 16 was described by Mr. Farhat as "one step from blackmail."

"... There are many prison-



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Rania drive through downtown after their marriage Thursday (see more photos on page 3)

## 2 guerrillas killed in Lebanon clash

TYRE (AP) — Shelling duels flared in South Lebanon Friday after a ground clash between guerrillas infiltrators and Israeli troops, two guerrillas were killed.

Security sources said the infiltrators were intercepted and engaged at midnight (2100 GMT Thursday) by Israeli troops and their surrogate militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) near the village of Tallousa, on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

In Israel, the military command confirmed the confrontation.

It said "two terrorists were killed overnight in a clash with Israeli Defence Force." Their bodies were found at the site this morning, it said, without identifying the guerrillas' organisation.

The statement added that the Israeli soldiers involved were paratroopers from a brigade that had suffered heavy losses in Lebanon in the past few months. Their most recent fatalities were four paratroopers fatally shot by fellow Israeli soldiers last month who apparently mistook them for guerrillas.

Hizbullah (Party of God) claimed its guerrillas were engaged in a clash with the Israelis. The Iranian-backed party has been leading a guerrilla war to dislodge Israel from the predominantly Shiite Muslim enclave.

Shelling duels flared after the overnight clash. There was a three-hour exchange of Howitzer and mortar fire between Israeli and SLA gunners in the zone and Hizbullah positions facing the

zone's central sectors.

The sources said Israeli gunners and SLA militiamen pounded the U.N.-policed villages of Majdal Salim and Shaqra with Howitzer barrages.

There was no immediate word on casualties from the bombardment and the command of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon said none of the Irish peacekeepers in the two villages was hurt.

Hizbullah attacked SLA militiamen manning the Beit Yathoun gateway that links the Israeli-occupied border enclave with the rest of the South Lebanon Thursday afternoon.

No one was injured in that attack, but the Israeli army said an SLA militiaman was killed Thursday while trying to defuse a roadside bomb in the same area.

## Jews, Palestinians clash at Vienna forum

VIENNA (AP) — A Jewish and a Palestinian delegate clashed Thursday as 2,000 activists met in Vienna for a world-wide human rights conference.

The delegates, all from non-governmental organisations, opened their meeting four days ahead of the United Nations' largest-ever gathering on human rights.

Chants of "Palestine, Palestine" rang through the hall of the gathering as World Jewish Congress (WJC) delegate John Lack raced to the podium to interrupt a speech by Issam Abdul Hadi, head of the Union of Palestinian Women.

Mr. Lack said the Palestinian violated convention rules which say that speeches must not be made to advance national interests. Mr. Abdul Hadi had also said the fact that a vote has been scheduled in South Africa shows what non-governmental groups can achieve.

Earlier, the secretary general of the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights, Senegal's former

wife of African National Congress (ANC) activist Walter Sisulu, urged all countries to protect and improve the civil rights of the world's poor, sick and underprivileged.

"It is an essential element of the universality of human rights to ensure that all people enjoy these rights," Mr. Fall said.

He also urged nations to "seek out and identify the marginalised, the excluded, the powerless and those without a voice."

The delegations present their demands at the conference opened yesterday.

Western governments led by the United States urged the U.N. conference to "prove the creation of a U.N. high commissioner for human rights with powers to publicise and stop rights abuses."

But developing nations, particularly those in Asia, say the right to economic development must takes precedence over civil and political rights.

Conference chairwoman Albertina Sisulu of South Africa.

## Egyptian police arrest 150

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian security forces have rounded up more than 150 Muslim militants in their hunt for those responsible for a bomb attack on a tour bus in Cairo this week, security sources said Friday.

In the southern town of Al Qusaya, gunmen believed by the sources to be Muslim fundamentalists, shot and killed a secret police officer after he left his house to go to work.

The sources, disclosing the detention of 150 suspects in connection with Tuesday's bombing, said police in the last three days raided flats in Cairo and its suburbs which they believed were used as hideouts by fundamentalists.

One Egyptian was killed and 22 people, including four British tourists, were wounded in the bomb attack on the road to the Pyramids.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, the latest in a series of bomb and gun attacks targeting foreign tourists. Security officials blamed Muslim militants fighting for an Islamic state.

Following the bombing, Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfie issued new restrictions on the lease of furnished apartments as part of a security campaign to tighten the noose on militants.

"Any landlord who leases a furnished apartment must report within three days to police in his area the names of the occupant, his nationality, his passport number if he is a foreigner and the number and place of issue of his identity card if he is an Egyptian," his orders said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ohio city declares Al Bireh a twin city

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A member of the Youngstown, Ohio city council on Friday formally declared the West Bank town of Al Bireh its sister city. City council member Martha Katz used the unusual occasion to call on both Arabs and Israelis to try to solve their differences without violence. "Both sides have to commit themselves to nonviolent means," she said before handing a gold-coloured key to the city of Youngstown to deposit Al Bireh Mayor Abdil Jawad Saleh. Mr. Saleh was allowed to return to the West Bank in April after 20 years in exile for organising protests against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In his short address, Mr. Saleh referred to the lack of local elections as "the most terrible measure against our people."

### Expellee wounded in bomb explosion

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (AP) — A Palestinian expellee was wounded Friday when a bomb blew up in a field near the tent city housing bin and 395 exiles. Adi Taneen, 33, a native of Hebron, was helping a group of exiles put out a fire in the bushes near the camp, when he apparently stepped on the bomb, triggering the blast. His head and arm suffered shrapnel wounds. Exiles at the camp said the device appeared to be an unexploded cluster bomb abandoned in the field before the camp was set up in December last year to house the expellees. Mr. Taneen was treated by doctors among the exiles. The Palestinians, most of them Muslim fundamentalists, have been trapped between Lebanon and Israeli army lines since their expulsion by Israel Dec. 17.

### Vranitzky hails Austria-Israel ties

TEL AVIV (AP) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky heralded a new chapter in Austrian-Israel relations Friday at the end of an unprecedented four-day tour. "There is a new chapter in relations between Israel and Austria," he told reporters. "We dealt with some of the questions between Israel and Austria, some of which still existed because of official Austria's refusal to deal with its Nazi past."

### Bonn urged not to deport Algerian activists

BONN (R) — French lawyer Jacques Verges urged Germany Friday not to extradite two Islamic fundamentalists sentenced to death in Algeria, saying they faced torture there. Mr. Verges said even if Algiers suspended the death penalty to comply with German law, the two men would suffer under wide-spread torture reported in Algeria by Amnesty International. "If Rabah Kebir is castrated in an Algerian jail, will the German government say it did not know of these things?" Mr. Verges told a news conference in Bonn, citing one method of torture listed by Amnesty in a report last year. Mr. Kebir, the chief Europe spokesman for exiled leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), was arrested Monday on an international warrant issued by Algeria.

### Saudis to reopen embassy in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Saudi Arabia has notified Lebanon that it planned to reopen its embassy in Beirut, closed in 1984 after it was ransacked and set alight by pro-Iranian demonstrators. Lebanese officials said the decision was conveyed to Prime Minister Rafik Hariri Thursday. No date for the reopening of the embassy was set, but the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Riyadh already has appointed an ambassador to Lebanon. The Saudi decision came a few days after American Ambassador Ryan Crocker disclosed that the U.S. embassy would soon reactivate part of its consular services, suspended in 1983.

### N. Korea denies arms-for-aid deal with Israel

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea, under fire for its defiant nuclear programme, denied Friday a U.S. magazine report that it was negotiating with Israel for economic aid in return for an end to its arms sales to Iran. "This is a totally unfounded fabrication and another malicious smear campaign," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a dispatch monitored here. But it added that North Korea had "never sold missiles and other mass-destruction weapons to MidEast nations." Time magazine reported recently that the U.S. government last month urged Israel to back off from any deal with the regime of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung. According to the report, Israel hoped to stop North Korean sales of nuclear technology and advanced missile systems to Iran.

### Police say Iranian lied about rightists

OSLO (AP) — Police accused a young Iranian Friday of setting fire to his family's house and leaving a poster with a swastika to draw suspicion towards right wing-extremists. "I don't know what the motive was," said Jarle Jonassen, acting sheriff in the central town of Oppdal. "He admitted that he caused the fire." Mr. Jonassen said 18-year-old Tofan Nour also admitted drawing the poster with a swastika and the slogan "Norway for Norwegians." The sign was found after the Thursday morning fire and police said they suspected rightwingers. Mr. Nour and his 13-year-old sister were home alone, and extinguished the blaze.

### Idi Amin aide sentenced to death

MBARARA, Uganda (AFP) — The Ugandan high court Friday sentenced to death a former provincial administration minister in Idris Amin's regime on a charge of murder he committed in 1972. In a two-hour judgement, read before a packed court here, Justice Alfred Karonkora said he was satisfied with prosecution evidence that Brigadier Ali Fadhlul had played a key role in the murder in 1972 of Francis Tibayungwa, an administrative secretary for western Uganda's Ankole district.

### Israeli army says it will recruit gays

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army said Friday it has formalised a policy of freely drafting homosexuals and would not automatically bar them from serving in sensitive posts. Lawmaker Yael Dayan, daughter of late general and statesman Moshe Dayan, said the policy "surpasses other armies" in its liberalisation. It goes beyond recent changes in the U.S. Armed Forces, where homosexuals are not obliged to come out of the closet, but can still be dismissed. Israel, which is still formally in a state of war with Arab countries, has a mandatory draft for 18-year-old men and women. Most men also serve in the reserves at least 40 days a year until age 55. The military statement said a "newly worded command determines there be no restrictions on recruiting homosexuals to the Israel Defense Forces." Draft of homosexuals would also be done "by it added."

### Summit on Black Sea fleet set for June 17

MOSCOW (AFP) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk Friday said he would hold a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin June 17 to discuss their countries' dispute over the Black Sea fleet. Interfax reported. Mr. Kravchuk, speaking to a delegation of Russian deputies, said: "I am confident that we can solve this problem," referring to the 200 vessels of the fleet which have hoisted the Russian flag in protest over their living conditions.

### Nigerian elections to go ahead

ABUJA (AFP) — Presidential elections will go ahead as planned in Nigeria Saturday, the government national electoral committee announced Friday. Its decision came after the high court in Abuja issued an order postponing the voting. The court made the order following a lawsuit from the Association for a Better Nigeria (ABN) which supports President Ibrahim Babangida and his military regime. But electoral commission president Humphrey Nwosu said in a press statement that the NEC decision to press ahead with the elections should not be seen as a violation of the court order, but rather as being in accord with the articles laid down in the country's constitution.

## COLUMN

Duchess